



CHAPTER 5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 5

INTRODUCTION	5-1
CONSULTATION REGARDING WILDLIFE	5-1
CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS	5-1
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	5-1
PREPARERS OF THE PLAN	5-2
PUBLIC COMMENTS & REFERENCES	5-7
PUBLIC HEARINGS	5-73

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the consultation and coordination activities the BLM has carried out while preparing this draft document. Public comments on the document and BLM responses to them will be included in this chapter of the Final El Malpais Plan.

Consultation and coordination have occurred in a variety of ways throughout the planning process. Formal and informal efforts have been made to involve the public, other federal agencies, American Indian tribal groups, state and local governments. More detailed documentation of this effort is on file at the Albuquerque Field Office, as is a complete list of all those contacted.

CONSULTATION REGARDING WILDLIFE

The BLM must consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 before any agency project is initiated that may affect any federally listed, special-status, plant or wildlife species or its habitat. This proposed plan is considered a major federal action, so the BLM has initiated informal consultation. Letters documenting this activity are on file at the Albuquerque Field Office.

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

BLM planning regulations require that Resource Management Plans be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, policies and procedures of other federal agencies, American Indian tribes, state and local governments. To ensure such consistency, the BLM has sent letters to all the groups and agencies listed in Table 5-1. These same entities have received copies of this document for their comment.

No inconsistencies are known between any of the plan alternatives and officially approved and adopted, resource-related plans of any of the above-mentioned groups. The BLM will continue to consult and coordinate during the public comment periods on this plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation in this El Malpais Plan is a

dynamic process that continues throughout plan development and beyond. In addition to formal public participation, informal contact occurs frequently with public land users and interested persons. All applicable public participation is documented and analyzed in the planning process and kept on file at the Albuquerque Field Office.

Public involvement is essential to the success of the plan. Although public input is welcome at any time, the BLM provides five specific opportunities for public comment, participation or review during the planning process.

1. The BLM published a general Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an RMP Amendment/ EIS in the *Federal Register* on March 29, 1995 (Vol. 60, No. 60). In the NOI, the agency also identified the general planning criteria and invited public comment. This letter invited them to participate again by attending meetings and/or providing written comments (refer to page 5-7).
2. With the NOI, the BLM officially initiated the scoping process. The agency then held public meetings to develop planning issues and review planning criteria in Grants (April 24-25, 1995), the Ramah Navajo Chapter House (April 25, 1995), and Albuquerque (April 26-27, 1995) (refer to page 5-73). The BLM met with the Acoma Tribal government on April 4, 1995, and accepted written comments until scoping officially ended on May 19, 1995. Completing Steps 1 and 2 of the planning process, the agency mailed out information on the results of public scoping on July 24, 1995, to all on the El Malpais Plan mailing list.
3. The BLM is providing a 90-day public comment period for this document. Public meetings to collect oral comments on the plan are scheduled for Albuquerque, Grants and Ramah. To gather input on the suitability of the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area

CHAPTER 5

for wilderness designation, the agency will also hold a formal public hearing.

4. After publishing the Proposed Plan and Final EIS, the BLM will provide a 30-day period for public protests of the RMP Amendment decisions. (Note: BLM regulations provide that only those people who participated in the planning process may protest a proposed RMP Amendment, and those protests are limited to specific issues commented on during the planning process.)
5. The BLM will then release the ROD and Approved Plan (RMP Amendment), including any significant changes made as the result of an action on a protest. Appeals of activity-level planning decisions can be made by those parties adversely affected at the time the ROD is released.

After the plan is published, the BLM will prepare an annual update to keep members of the public informed about the progress made in plan implementation. The update will also describe the activity plans to be prepared the following year so interested persons may request copies and comment on them. This effort will enable the public to become further involved in specific land management actions resulting from plan implementation.

PREPARERS OF THE PLAN

This plan has been prepared by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. Table 5-2 lists the names and qualifications of each team member.

Comment on the Draft Summarized

Copies of the comment letters follow the list of preparers along with BLM's responses. Thirty-seven comment letters were received regarding the Draft Plan/EIS. Six of the letters required no response. Three letters were submitted by more than one commentor (form letters) and require a response. The other fourteen letters had one or more comments requiring a response. Comments were received from individuals, groups, and Federal, State and Local Government agencies.

Copies of the Hearings Transcripts follow the comment letters and responses. Hearings were held

in Grants, Quemado and Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the Grants Hearings it was suggested that we use the Public Law 100-225 language regarding the continuation of grazing within the NCA. The legislative language was used in the text. There were no comments received at the Quemado Hearings. At the Albuquerque Hearings access and road closure questions were raised. These questions were similar to questions raised in the comment letters and BLM has referenced comment 6-A in response. There was also a comment relative to grazing management systems suggesting that a rest system was not as affective as scattering animals well over the area and stocking the area at conservative rate. In response, the EIS does not refer to long term or continuous rest from livestock grazing but emphasizes periodic growing season rests as a means to allow important forage and browse plants to periodically complete their growth cycle and reproduce. The BLM has implemented a modified Merrill system as a test. This system provides for continuous year long livestock, but each year one quarter of the grazing area is rested from livestock grazing. Over a four year period the entire area would receive rest from livestock use. The grazing use intensity objectives set for this system are 50 to 40 percent use. To attain this grazing intensity level, conservative stocking is required. The BLM does have concerns about the effects of continuous year long grazing on shrubs and grasses preferred by livestock. If these preferred plants are reduced Species composition is reduced. The system being tested is based on the commentor's recommendations. The effects of livestock grazing will be monitored and evaluated over a five year period beginning with the grazing year 2000.



TABLE 5-1

**PARTIAL LISTING OF GROUPS AND AGENCIES
RECEIVING THE EL MALPAIS PLAN**

American Indian Tribes and Groups

Acoma Pueblo
Alamo Navajo Chapter
All Indian Pueblo Council
Cañoncito Navajo Chapter
Laguna Pueblo
Navajo Tribal Council
Ramah Navajo Chapter
Zuni Pueblo

Businesses

Continental Divide Electric Cooperative
Cottonwood Gulch Foundation
First National Bank
G S & S Partnership
Grant County Farm & Livestock
Grants State Bank
Hampton Builders Corporation
Headquarters West Ltd.
Hunter Corporation
Jerome P. McHugh & Associates
Mariah Associates
Moleres Ranch Inc.
NationsBank
NM-AZ Land Company
Pitchford Properties
Public Lands Association
Public Service Co. of NM
Quivira Research Center
REI
Sandia Man Films
SW Off Road Enterprises
Sunset Inc.
Techado Land & Cattle Co.
Western Land Bank
Wilderness Center
Williams Co.
Zia Research
Zuni Archeology Program

Interest Groups

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
American Wilderness Alliance

American Wildlands
American Fisheries Association
Amigos Bravos
Archeological Conservancy
Backcountry Horsemen
Center for Environmental Research
Central NM Audubon Society
Cibola Chamber of Commerce
Commission of Wilderness Supporters
Continental Divide Trail Society
Defenders of Wildlife
Earth First
East Manzano Alliance
Friends of Paleontology
Forest Guardians
Gallup Convention & Visitors Bureau
Grand Canyon Trust
Greater Gila Biodiversity Project
Los Amigos del Malpais
National Audubon Society
National Parks & Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NM Archeological Council
NM Cattle Growers Association
NM 4 Wheelers
NM Garden Clubs
NM Land Use Alliance
NM Mountain Club
NM PIRG Fund
NM Speleological Society, Sandia Grotto
NM Trials Association
NM Volunteers for the Outdoors
NM Wilderness Coalition
NM Wilderness Study Committee
NM Wildlife Federation
Plateau Sciences Society
Public Land Users Association
Public Lands Action Network
Sandia Mountain Wildlife Association
Sierra Club
Southwest Research & Information Center
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Tonantzin Land Institute

CHAPTER 5

University of Arizona
University of New Mexico

TABLE 5-1 (concl'd)

<u>Interest Groups, concl'd</u>	<u>State Government Agencies</u>
Wilderness Watch, NM Chapter	Governor's Office
Wildlife Rescue of NM	Bureau of Mines & Mining
Zuni Mountain Coalition	Dept. of Agriculture
	Dept. of Finance & Administration,
	State Clearinghouse
<u>Federal Government Agencies</u>	Dept. of Game & Fish
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Dept. of Highways & Transportation
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA),	Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Eastern Navajo Agency	Dept. of Tourism
BIA, Ramah Agency	Environment Dept.
BIA, Southern Pueblos Agency	NM Museum of Natural History
BIA, Zuni Agency	NM Office of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Mines	State Game Commission
Bureau of Reclamation	State Historic Preservation Office
Dept. of Energy	State Land Office
Dept. of Justice	
Dept. of Transportation	<u>Local Government Agencies</u>
Environmental Protection Agency	Catron County
Fish & Wildlife Service	Cibola County
Dept. of Interior,	City of Gallup
Office of Environmental Project Review	City of Grants
National Park Service (NPS),	Coalition of AZ/NM Counties
El Malpais Nat'l Monument	Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
NPS, El Morro Nat'l Monument	Village of Milan
NPS, Southwest Cluster	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	<u>U.S. Congress</u>
Rural Economic & Community Devel. Admin.	The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
U.S. Air Force	The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	The Honorable Joe Skeen
U.S. Forest Service, Cibola National Forest	
U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Region	
U.S. Geological Survey	

TABLE 5-2

LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Assignment	Education	Related Experience ^a
<u>Core Team</u> John Bristol	Wilderness, Recreation, Visual Resources, Transportation Planning	BS Landscape Architecture	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner, 16 years BLM Landscape Architect, 5 years USFS Landscape Architect, 6 years
John Roney	Cultural Resources, American Indian Concerns, Lands	BA Sociology/Anthropology MA Anthropology	BLM Cultural Resource Specialist, 22 years
Jim Silva	Wildlife Habitat, Threatened & Endangered Species, Vegetation, Fire	BS Biology	BLM Wildlife Biologist/Natural Resources Specialist, 24 years
Margaret Sorensen	Recreation, Facility Development, Interpretation	BS Geology/Education	BLM Interpretive Specialist, 11 years
Gene Tatum	Vegetation, Range Management, Woodland Resources	BS Range Science	BLM Natural Resource Specialist, 5 years BLM Rangeland Mgt. Specialist, 15 years
<u>Natural Resource & Planning Advisors</u> Steve Fischer	Planning Advisor, NCA Manager	BA Political Science, Fine Art MA Anthropology	BLM Natural Resource Specialist, 2 years BLM Project Manager/NCA Manager, 10 years BLM Public Affairs Specialist, 3 years
Kent Hamilton	Planning Advisor, Social & Economic Conditions	BS Agricultural Economics	BLM Community Planner, 10 years BLM Economist, 11 years BIA Economist, 15 years
Patricia McLean	Planning Advisor, Geology & Minerals	BA English	BLM Manager, 11 years (Retired) BLM Administration, 8 years
Jerry Wall	Soil & Water Advisor	BS Forestry Management MS Forest Soils	BLM Soils Scientist, 21 years USFS Soils Scientist, 10 years
J.W. Whitney	Planning Advisor	BS Botany	BLM Natural Resource Specialist, 30 years

TABLE 5-2, concl'd

Name	Assignment	Education	Related Experience ^a
<u>Technical & Document Production Staff</u> M'Lee A. Beazley	Graphic Artist, Desktop Publisher & Printing Coordinator	Certified Graphic Design	BLM Visual Information/Printing Specialist, 5 years
Crista Carroll	Geographer	BFA MA Geography	BLM Geographer, 11 years
Jeanne Holtby	Proofreader	High School Diploma	BLM Range Clerk, 4 years
Greg Homan	Cartographer (NM)	BS - Geography	BLM/Other, 11 years
Barbara Laskar	Word Processor	High School Diploma	BLM Staff Assistant, 20 years
Anna Salas	Word Processor & Process Records Mgr.	High School Diploma	BLM Staff Assistant, 16 years
Jennifer Schultz	Copy Editor & Proofreader	BA Psychology	Temporary Assistant
Sarah W. Spurrier	Writer-Editor	BA Psychology MBA	BLM Writer-Editor, 17 years Technical Writer-Editor, 2 years (pvt. industry)

Note: ^a Acronyms are as follows: BIA--Bureau of Indian Affairs, BLM--Bureau of Land Management, USFS--U.S. Forest Service.